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SOURCE 1953 Ching-chi Nien-pao (The 1953 Economic Yearbook), pp 74-78.SOUTH CHINA'S ECONOMY IN 1952

[Comment: This report summarizes an article entitled, "The Glorious Economic Accomplishments in South China for the Past Year," by Lin Pi published in the pro-Communist 1953 Ching-chi Nien-pao (The 1953 Economic Yearbook) on 5 February 1953. The report gives data on industries, agriculture, water conservation, transportation, and rural and urban commodities exchange in South China.]

A. General

The purchasing power of the people in Kwangtung rose 15 percent in 1952 as compared to 1951. For the inhabitants of Canton and its suburbs, the purchasing power rose 12 percent and 10 percent, respectively, in 1952.

In 1951, South China commodity prices rose 3.86 percent over 1950 but in 1952, a price drop of about 5 percent over 1951 is expected.

E. Industries

The 1952 industrial production of South China was 308.78 percent greater than for 1950. As compared to 1936, South China industrial production for 1952 showed the following increases: cement, 1.1 percent; hemp bags, 331.54 percent; newsprint, 508.67 percent; sugar, 43.45 percent; rosin, 401 percent; and cigarettes, 36.36 percent.

The industrial production comprised only 29.24 percent of the total of agricultural and industrial production of Kwangtung in 1950; but in 1951, it rose to 30.65 percent; and in 1952, to 32.45 percent.

The 1952 industrial production of Canton was 52.76 percent greater than for 1951. As compared with 1951, Canton private industry production for 1952 showed the following increases: woven goods, 141 percent; flour, 211 percent; matches, 21 percent; hydrochloric acid, 60 percent; nails, 14 percent.

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C. Agriculture and Fishing

By the end of 1952, over 21 million farmers in Kwangtung and 10.82 million farmers in Kwangsi had been affected by the land-reform program. At present, there are 6,330 permanent and 77,525 temporary mutual aid teams in Kwangsi.

The following table shows Kwangtung agricultural production from 1950 to 1952:

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Foodstuffs	--	--	15.1 billion catties
Tobacco	--	--	100,000 piculs
Raw silk	--	3,150 quintals	3,405 quintals
Fish	175,000 tons	242,352 tons	300,000 tons

During the spring of 1952, Kwangtung produced 230 million catties more rice than in 1951. Kwangtung sugar cane production for 1952 was 74.95 percent greater than for the year prior to World War II and 342.18 percent greater than for 1949.

Canton's flax production in 1951 was 80 percent greater than in the year prior to World War II. In 1952, a greater increase is expected.

D. Water Conservation Work

During the past 3 years, 150,650 and 51,500 small-scale water conservation projects were completed in Kwangtung and Kwangsi, respectively. Farm lands which benefited from these projects totaled 13 million mou in Kwangtung and 3,700,400 mou in Kwangsi;

E. Rural and Urban Commodities Exchange

The South China Commodities Exchange Conference was held in Canton from 15 November to 6 December 1952. At this conference, goods valued at 1,472,400,000,000 yuan were exchanged, which included 675.7 billion yuan of agricultural products and 796.6 billion yuan of industrial products.

Using January 1952 as the base month, the 1952 Kwangtung private business transactions for July was 99 percent; for August, 130 percent; for September, 158 percent; for October, 180 percent; and for November, 223 percent.

F. Transportation

Kwangtung had 8,300 kilometers of highways in 1952. On 15 November 1952, the Kwangtung Transportation Bureau announced the following changes in transportation charges: passenger rate on gasoline-burning vehicles, 430 yuan per kilometer, and on wood- and charcoal-burning vehicles, 400 yuan per kilometer; freight rate (per ton) on gasoline-burning vehicles, 3,000 yuan per kilometer, and on wood and charcoal-burning vehicles, 2,800 yuan per kilometer.

Kwangtung inland waterway transportation showed great development. The present navigable distances of steamers and sailboats in Kwangtung during the summer and winter months are as follows:

	<u>Summer (kilometers)</u>	<u>Winter (kilometers)</u>
Steamers	3,995	3,504
Sailboats	6,326	5,791

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